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PREVIOUSLY IN...

GHOST RIDER DANNY KETCH

DANNY KETCH USED TO BE THE GHOST RIDER. HIS SOUL HOST TO A GHASTLY ENTITY, KETCH WAS A LEATHER-CLAD, CHAIN-ENSHROUDED, FIRE-WREATHED SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WHOSE POWER WAS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD. BUT ALL HE REALLY WANTED TO DO WAS RID HIMSELF OF HIS CURSE AND LEAD A NORMAL LIFE.

ONLY, HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH HE'D MISS IT ONCE IT WAS GONE. EVER SINCE THE SPIRIT WAS EXORCISED FROM HIS SOUL, KETCH HAS HAD ONLY ONE THING ON HIS MIND: GETTING IT BACK.

NOW, DANNY'S BEEN GIVEN A TASTE OF THE GHOST RIDER POWER ONCE MORE BY THE MYSTERIOUS MISTER ELEVEN—A CROW WITH TIES TO A HIGHER POWER. ELEVEN EXPLAINS TO KETCH THAT THE GHOST RIDER POWER WAS ORIGINALLY GRANTED BY HEAVEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE LIVING SPIRIT WEAPONS. AND KETCH IS NOW BEING TASKED BY HEAVEN TO EXTERMINATE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN DESTROYING HOSTS AND STEALING THEIR POWERS FOR HIMSELF: VERMINUS REX.

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THE HUNT FOR VERMINUS REX:
PARK
THESE THINGS CAN TAKE A WHILE.
...TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE TUNNELS'RE A DAMN MAZE.
I-IF I JUST HAD MORE POWER THIS TIME... I COULD COVER MORE GROUND, FIND REX QUICKER...
FWOOMPH
YESSS.
GETTIN' TO DANGEROUS LEVELS, KID. HAVE A CARE, HUHH
WHERE IS YOUR MASTER?
WHERE IS REX?
NO SIGN.
SLEEP IT OFF. WE'LL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.

IT GETS TO BE KINDA ROUTINE. THE 9 P.M. RENDEZVOUS, THE OPENING PORTAL...
PARK
...THE LAME EXCUSES.
...AND I'M SURE THEY'RE BREEDING. I...I CAN'T HANDLE THEM ALL...
M-MAYBE IF I JUST HAD A LITTLE MORE POWER--JUST A LITTLE, Y'KNOW?-- I COULD PUSH THROUGH AND--
POOR KID.
MMMM.
WHERE?
WHERE?
POOR DUMB, STUPID TRUSTING KID.
HE HASN'T THE FIRST CLUE WHAT HE'S INTO.
NOTHING.
NOBODY HAS.
Eleverus

NOTHING.
SO YEAH: A ROUTINE.
AND UNDER IT ALL A TRAGEDY.
NOTHING.
SEE...ALL THIS CRAP GOING ON--THE FIRES, THE FIGHTS, THE FAILURES...
NOT A DAMN HINT.
...THE TRUTH IS, IT AIN'T WHAT'S IMPORTANT AT ALL. NOT TO ME, NOT TO THE BOSS.
W-WHY WAIT 'TIL NIGHT? I...I COULD GO BACK IN STRAIGHT AWAY, GET ANOTHER SHOT AT--
FORGET IT, KID. YOU LOOK LIKE S**T. GET SOME REST.
...NO--IT'S WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DAYTIME THAT REALLY COUNTS.
DANNY?
C'MON MATE--I GOT ONE OF YOUR HAIRS IN THE HEX-NAV: I KNOW YOU'RE DOWN HERE.
TAKE THE NEXT AURA ON YOUR RIGHT RIND--
GEEZ, DAN...WHAT YOU DOIN'?
IT'S WHETHER THE KID CAN BEAT THE DOWNTIME IN-BETWEEN--

GHOST RIDER: ADDICT

PART 4: THE JONES

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C'MON, MATE--STOP BEING A PRAT.
NO! NO! I HAVE TO STAY HERE!
ARK
THE BIRD MIGHT COME BACK EARLY! GET OFF ME! GET OFF!
LEAVE IT OUT, DANNY. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME AND THAT'S F!---
I SAID GET OFF!
I'M...
YEAH, I KNOW. YOU'RE A TIT.
NOW MUSH. YOU OWE ME BREAKFAST.

CEREAL. WOW.
SORRY. I'M...KINDA BROKE.
LUCKY FOR YOU AN EXPLANATION COMES GRATIS. SPILL.
I'VE GOT THIS MISSION. I'M DOING SOME GOOD, MARY.
NOT TO YOURSELF, YOU'RE NOT.
YOU'RE IN A &%$#IN' STATE, LOVE, AND I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU JUS--
I CAN HANDLE IT!
THUMP
SLAP
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOUR BLEEDIN' TANTRUMS, DANNY-BOY.
I'VE BEEN A SODDIN' SAINT TO YOU SINCE YOU SLITHERED THROUGH ME DOOR, AND I AIN'T ABOUT TO KEEP PUTTING UP WITH YOUR $#!%.
LESSON BEGINS:
YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD.

YOUR FEATHERY PAL, "MISTER ELEVEN."
H-HOW DO Y--
DON'T MATTER. BEEN DOING SOME DIGGIN'. CREEP'S GOT A REPUTATION.
SHADY LITTLE SOD. THEY SAY HE WORKS FOR WHOEVER PAYS BEST.
WOMEN
DAMMIT, MARY--I...I ALREADY KNOW WHO HE'S WORKING FOR!
I'M WITH THE GOOD GUYS, HERE! I GOT HEAVEN IN MY CORNER!
THAT'S JUST IT, DAN. THAT'S JUST THE PROBLEM.
THERE ARE RUMOURS, MATE. 'S ALL OVER THE ETHERWEB LIKE ACNE.
HEAVEN'S UNDER SIEGE.
SKASSSSSSH
KETCH!
KETCH!

'ERE WE GO...
EMERGENCY, KID!
WAIT, LISTEN, WE GOTTA TALK AB--
SON, NOT NOW! THIS IS THE BREAK WE BEEN WAITING FOR! LIFE AND #$-#*IN' DEATH!
YOU NEED TO COME NOW!
'S YOUR CHOICE, MATE.
I...I'M SORRY, MARY. THIS IS IMPORTANT...
M-MAYBE WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, WE C--
KID! NOW!
... WHERE TO?
YOUR APARTMENT. UNEXPECTED GUEST.

GLUK
NUUURG
OH.

MUSTA ESCAPED FROM THE BIG BAD--RETRACED HER WAY BACK UP THE TUNNELS.
S-SO...WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE REX IS?
WELL, YEAH...RIGHT AFTER WE HELP HER.
O-OF COURSE. THAT TOO.
UH, HOW?
I DON'T UNDERST--
NUK-
I...
CAN'T T-TO BE HOLDING IT IN...
TO DEVOUR ME... NEED YOUR HELP
POWER'S OVERWHELMING HER. SHE'S TOO DAMAGED. LOST CONTROL.
OVERDOSE, KID. SHE AIN'T GOT LONG.
YOU GOTTA LEECH IT.
WHAT?
AAAA!
AAAA!
BROAD'S ONLY HOPE, SON. IT'S EITHER THAT OR WATCH HER GO POP.
BRAIN DISSOLVED.
SOUL GONE FOREVER.

P-PLEASE!
D-DO NOT DENY ME NIRVANA!
THE HUNGER
HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS:
A FREE DOSE.
COMES NATURALLY, KIDDO--THAT AIN'T THE PROBLEM.
WHAT MUST I DO?
FWWWOMPH
S-SO WHAT IS?
HOLDING IT IN.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
TH...
-IKOFF-
THANK...
Y...
...

IT AIN'T A FUN RIDE: DROWNING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S MEMORIES...
POOR KID...
OH CRAP.
THE HELL GOTTA IN THEIR POWER.
NNNNNNNNNN!
CONTROL IT, SON.
WILL-POWER. GET IT BUTTONED DOWN.
THE BOSS'LL RESTRICT THE FLOW--BUT YOU GOTTA LET HIM! YOU HEAR ME?
RRRRRRRRRR--
NNK...
I...

HHHH.
NICE WORK. YOU JUST SCORED A CAREER FOR LIFE.
YOU, UH... YOU WANNA SHAKE AN EYEBALL?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "CAREER"?
HA. REX, IS JUST THE BEGINNING, BONY. BOSS'S GOT PLANS.
I DON'T KNOW WHO I'M WORKING FOR.
I WANT TO KNOW WHO I'M WORKING
MARY SAID TH--
MARY SAYS A LOT OF STUFF, KID. YOU DON'T WANNA BELIEVE ALL OF IT.
SSHHH!
OKAY, OKAY...I GUESS YOU EARNED IT...
CAWD
"LISTEN: THE BOSS... HE WAS THERE WHEN THE SPIRITS WERE FIRST SENT OUT.
"THE BOSS WAS THERE WHEN THE FIRST OVERDOSE KICKED IN AND THE FIRST HOST WAS LOST FOREVER.
"HE'S AN ANGEL, SON.
"AN ANGEL WHO'S WATCHED THESE F*#KING WEAPONS SWALLOW UP A THOUSAND GOOD SOULS ACROSS A HUNDRED BAD CENTURIES.
"HE AIN'T THE TYPE TO SIT IDLY BY."

WAR IN HEAVEN? SIEGES AND FACTIONS AND BLAH BLAH BLAH!
NONE OF IT MATTERS-- GET THAT THROUGH YOUR SKULL.
ONLY ONE THING COUNTS A DAMN:
"SOMEONE'S GOTTA SAVE THE HOSTS FROM THEMSELVES. SOMEONE'S GOTTA RESCUE THEIR SOULS FROM DESTRUCTION.
"HAPPENS TO 'EM ALL, KID--SOONER OR LATER. ONE BAD DAY FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT AND IT'S KABLOOIE. ANOTHER GHOST LOST. ANOTHER INNOCENT SPIRIT DROWNED IN FIRE...
"SOMEONE'S GOTTA CLEAN UP THE MESS HEAVEN MADE AN AGE AGO. AND SON--I'M SORRY TO SAY IT: THAT'S YOU."
SO...SO I'D LEECH THEM? OTHER BEARERS? JUST LIKE HER?
IF YOU THINK YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES--YEAH.
THE RIDER MUCH [illegible] WAY AN EXPRESSION. [illegible] GRINNING LIKE A KID AT CHRISTMAS.
MANY DOSES AS HE CAN FIND... AS MUCH POWER AS HE CAN TAKE...
...AND ALL WITH THE ADDED BONUS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. NOTHING HELPS AN [illegible] LIKE A [illegible]
I ACCEPT.
GAWP
'COURSE YOU DO.
BUT FIRST--

"--REX."
PAR
YOU'RE SURE YOU KNOW THE WAY?
SHOBA DID. NOW I DO.
SO SHOW ME.
THWAK!
THE NEST.
HM%.

TAKE HIM.
THRUDDDUP
SNIKT
HYUUK!

TIME'S TICKING, KID...
HURRY IT UP, HUH?
CRUNCH
FWUT
HAHAHAHA
H-HE'S TOO STRONG I NEED MORE POWER
JUST GET ON WITH IT!
NRAAAA!
PITIFUL!
THIS IS THE BEST YOUR MASTER CAN SEND, ELEVEN? THIS BROKEN ADDICT?
FUP
A MORSEL! I SWALLOW HIM WHOLE!

OH CRAP.. TH-THE DOSE...
N-NOT NOW...
FWWWWOOSH
HRRN?
NRRAAAA! NO POWER!
CHEATING! TRICKERY! NO FOOD!
USSSELESS HUMAAAAN!
FWUP
MEAT FOR THE RATKIN!
Y-YOU GOTTA GET BACK UP! YOU GOTTA ASK THE BOSS FOR ANOTHER DOSE!
NO.
N-NOT A DOSE.
I NEED FULL ACCESS, ELEVEN. I NEED IT LIKE THE OLD DAYS...
I CAN'T WIN WITHOUT IT...
...
K-KID... WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THE BOSS WON'T LET Y--
SO PERSUADE HIM.

AH, CRAP. YOU BETTER HOPE HE'S NEAR THE PHONE...
ANY TIME TODAY...
...NFF.
B-BRACE YOURSELF, KID.
AND... GOOD LUCK.
KRAWWR!
BOSS SAID "YES"...
HA.
HAHAHAHA!

HAAAHAAAA!
FORGIVE ME.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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